Changing the way we think about the environment.

A quick overview.

To keep up with an ever-changing world, it is necessary to regularly review all aspects of our business. This includes the way we manage our environmental performance across the organization. ISO 14001 Environmental Management System is being revised and it is important to understand the changes and their impact on you and our organization.

Why is the standard changing?

Standards are reviewed on a regular basis to make sure they stay relevant to today’s marketplace. The revised ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management Systems (EMS) standard will:

* Provide an integrated approach to environmental management
* Provide a consistent foundation for the next 10 years
* Reflect the increasingly complex environments in which organizations’ operate
* Ensure the new standard reflects the needs of all potential user groups
* Provide greater detail on environmental objectives and planning how to achieve them

ISO 14001:2015 was published in September 2015. Although there is a 3 year transition period we need to start planning our transition.

What are the most significant changes?

The revised standard will be based on a new structure with 10 Clauses. This is the framework that will be adopted by all management system standards of the future to aid consistency and align different management system standards. The key changes to ISO 14001 are:

* Increased focus on transparency and accountability in environmental management issues and performance
* Strengthen the relationship between environmental performance and the strategic direction of an organization
* Greater detail on environmental objectives
* Integration of the EMS into the organizations business processes
* Enhanced leadership requirements and increased communication requirements

What benefits will it bring?

* Bring environmental management into the heart of our business
  + Environmental management will be integrated and aligned with our business strategies, optimizing performance and helping to preserve the world’s natural resources
* Improved Environmental Performance
  + This new holistic approach will help identify further opportunities for improved environmental performance savings resources and costs.
* An Integrated Approach
  + It will be easier to implement more than one management system providing a more holistic view leading to cost savings
* Leadership
  + Greater involvement by our leadership team will ensure that we’ll all be motivated towards the organizations environmental goals and objectives

What do we need to do?

We have seen a number of benefits from implementing and certifying to ISO 14001:2004 and will be starting our transition journey. An implementation plan will be developed and communicated across the whole organization and your input will be invaluable as we:

1. Take a fresh look at our environmental management system
2. Understand the impact of the key changes and how these changes will be implemented
3. Implement the new requirements on leadership and lifetime environmental performance
4. Review identified opportunities based on the key changes of the standard
5. Change our documentation to reflect the new structure
6. Conduct an internal audit

Our transition journey

Our project plan

Our project team

Dates to remember

*For more information, contact <quality manager’s name> on <insert tel. number> or send*

*an email to <insert email address>.*